

Remarks

The specification has been amended as requested by the Examiner to update the continuation data appearing at page 1 to reflect the fact that Application Serial No. 09/977,531 has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,627,065. Page 5 of the specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is believed to be entered as a result of the current amendments to the specification.

Claims 1-7 have been cancelled. New claims 8-17 have been added, and are now the sole claims presented for examination. Consideration and allowance of these claims as now presented is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has issued a Restriction Requirement based upon various species identified in the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement, in that the functionality of the species cited by the Examiner as being distinct is in fact common among the groups identified. In particular, the Examiner would necessarily have searched for and evaluated the subject matter of Claims 3 and 7, as well as the species of magnesium, aluminum, aluminum/magnesium alloy, and conductive polymers in conducting the examination of Claims

1, 2, and 4-6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, however, have been cancelled in the instant amendment in favor of new Claims 8-17, which conform to the elections stated above. Examination of Claims 8-17 as now presented is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cocks (U.S. 5,336,303). Claim 6 has been cancelled in the instant amendment, thereby rendering moot the rejection thereof. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Cocks '303 in fact teaches away from the use of, for example, zinc in the electrochemically active paint at column 6, lines 61-64. Specifically, Cocks '303 indicates that, for a paint to be able to protect an iron (steel) substrate, even with the presence of substantial amounts of carbon, the electrochemical potential of the metal pigment itself must be at least as negative as -1.05 volts. By his own admission, Cocks '303 states that metals such as zinc and aluminum fail to provide the adequate negative electrochemical potential, even when used in combination with graphite, to inhibit corrosion of an iron substrate. Accordingly, Cocks '303 is taken as a reference that specifically teaches away from

the presently pending claims. The rejections based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

The claims are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Savin (WO 96/29372). The Savin '372 publication is generally directed to graphite-containing compositions useful in galvanizing coatings on metallic substrates (see, for example, page 16, lines 28-30). Savin '372, however, fails to teach or suggest the beneficial bridging attributes of the presently claimed compositions in use as a coating upon a substrate within which a metallic member is embedded.

The newly added claims more particularly focus upon a primarily novel aspect of the present invention, in which the liquid compositions may be applied to an exterior surface of a substrate, with the liquid coating self-forming a conductive bridge into the substrate to reach the embedded metallic structure. Such a conductive bridge effectively inhibits the corrosion of the embedded metallic structure without having to directly apply a coating thereto. Support for the above comments and the claim amendments are found at, for example, page 2, line 30-page 3, line 7 of the application as originally filed. Since Savin '372 fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed methods, the rejections based thereon should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The claims are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Savin '372. For the reasons stated above, however, Savin '372 fails to teach or suggest the methods now claimed. As such, the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based upon Savin '372 should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, the claims as now presented are believed to be unobvious and patentable over the cited prior art, whether taken alone or in combination. Applicants therefore submit that the claims as now presented are allowable on the merits. An early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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